season due to several reasons, including increased availability of edible oils and low consumption pattern of coconut oil.

(c) To protect the interest of the copra growers, the Government is undertaking Price Support Operations through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). Till mid March, 2001, NAFED had procured a total quantity of 2.20 lakh tonnes of Milling Copra, with the share of Kerala being 81028 tonnes and Goa being 430 tonnes. As regard Ball copra, a total quantity of 4063 tonnes have been procured, the share of Karnataka being 4060 tonnes over the same period. The Government is also using the instruments of trade policy to protect the interest of domestic cultivators.

Purchase of Computers by ICAR

2881. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a corrigendum, regarding ICB II of NATP(ARIS) advertisement for purchase of computer peripherals worth Rs. 34 crores was issued by the Indian Council of Agriculutre Research in January, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the term of the official of the ICAR, who pinpointed the loss of about Rs. 5 crores and technology damage to the country due to above advertisement was terminated with immediate effect in the month of January, 2001 itself; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken to rectify the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. However the estimated value is not Rs. 34 crores, but is Rs. 19.8 crores.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, there was no loss. Taking into consideration his performance, the officer was reverted.